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LET'S GO, POULTRYMEN!

Broadcast by Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Home Economics, Dewey Termohlen, Food Distribution Administration, and M. L. DuMars, Radio Service, Thursday December 31, 1942, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

ANNOUNCER: In Washington, here are - -

VAN DEMAN: Ruth Van Deman . . .

DU MARS: Duke DuMars . . .

VAN DEMAN: And a poultry authority to talk with us about the job of meeting the goals for poultry and eggs in 1943.

DU MARS: None other than our old friend, Dewey Termohlen.

VAN DEMAN: Dewey, I'm glad you're here. Poultry and egg production are so important from the standpoint of nutrition in these times when we're trying to get more proteins. And I know the millions of people who raise poultry want to do their best to meet the goals in '43.

TERMOHLEN: They proved that, Ruth, by what they did this year. Duke, have you given the Farm and Home listeners the figures on 1942 production?

DU MARS: Not yet. Suppose you do it.

TERMOHLEN: Glad to. These are figures the poultry and egg producers have a right to be proud of: the goal for eggs was 4 billion 200 million dozen. Poultrymen have beat that goal by 200 million dozen. As to chickens for meat, the Department of Agriculture asked for a little more than 3 billion pounds. Poultrymen met that goal. And turkey producers came close to meeting their goal of 500 million pounds.

VAN DEMAN: But the goals for 1943 are even higher.

TERMOHLEN: You're right...do you know how much higher?

VAN DEMAN: Not in millions and billions...but in the kind of figures I can count on my fingers...

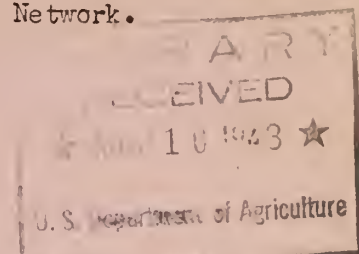
DU MARS: That's a woman for you -- billions reduced to finger-counting. All right, Ruth, let's have those simple figures -- or should I say "fingers"?

VAN DEMAN: Well, for every 12 eggs this year we need about 13 eggs next year.

TERMOHLEN: That's correct. In other words, 8 percent more than 1942 production.

VAN DEMAN: And for every three pounds of chicken meat this year, four pounds in '43. And for every 5 pounds of turkey meat this year, 6 pounds in the year ahead.

TERMOHLEN: Very good figuring, Ruth...Those are good simple terms. I wish it were just as simple to do the producing.



DU MARS: On the other hand, Dewey, nobody expects war work to be simple and easy. It just isn't.....But let's take a look at some of the problems.

VAN DEMAN: I daresay the first problem that comes to everybody's mind is "Who's going to do the extra work?" So many farms and so many commercial poultry businesses have lost a lot of help.

TERMOHLEN: Yes, that's about the biggest problem. It hasn't been solved. However, poultry and eggs count as "war units" and under a recent amendment to the Selective Service Act the local draft boards use those war units as a basis for classifying agricultural workers in 2-C and 3-C. This gives both commercial poultry business and farm producers greater assurance of continuing their work and keeping hired help.

In addition, the commercial poultrymen and those who have smaller flocks are getting more boys and girls and older people to help them.

DU MARS: There are some mighty good poultrymen among those younger and older people, and they'll help a lot toward meeting the goals...But what about poultry equipment? Will we have enough?

TERMOHLEN: Enough. In wartime we don't have enough of anything. But the equipment manufacturers are making metal go farther by standardizing styles, using substitute materials, and so on. Besides that, many poultrymen are using their ingenuity to build their own equipment without buying anything. I'd suggest that a person who needs new equipment should see his county agent. He might get an idea about how to build his own equipment.

VAN DEMAN: Dewey, you said that in wartime we don't have enough of anything... we do have enough poultry feed, don't we?

TERMOHLEN: Yes, in general we do. But we'll have to rely on different combinations. For example, we don't have as much meat scrap as we need. We're short of fish meal too. We can make up for them in part by using soybean meal. But we can't put soybean meal in a laying mash to replace all of the meat scrap. That would upset the mineral balance in the ration. We have to keep some of the animal proteins in poultry feed. Many poultrymen and feed dealers are using soybean meal to supply as much of the protein requirements as possible. A lot of poultrymen are talking with their county agents and reading up on the nutrients in the various feeds...and carefully selecting the most suitable and available feed combinations for their purposes.

DU MARS: That certainly makes sense....Ruth, I think I have about one point left to take up with Dewey; how about you?

VAN DEMAN: I have one other point in mind too, and it's probably the same as yours....prices?

DU MARS: Right.

TERMOHLEN. Well, folks, I don't think many poultrymen are worrying about 1943 prices. They know and we know there'll be a market for every egg and every pound of poultry meat they can produce. But just to make doubly sure, the Department of Agriculture has put a floor under egg and poultry prices. Through purchase programs of the Food Distribution Administration, we'll see to it that the United

States average farm price is not less than 30 cents a dozen in the spring and summer, and not less than 34 cents for the year.

VAN DEMAN: Did you say those are averages?

TERMOHLEN: Yes. The individual farmer may receive more or less than the average. But the average will not go below those support prices--30 cents in spring and summer, 34 cents for the year. We also have a floor under chicken and turkey prices. This provides price support for the farmer at not less than 90 percent of parity.

DU MARS: At the same time, we have ceiling prices.

TERMOHLEN: Yes, we now have permanent wholesale price ceilings on poultry, and we'll probably soon have retail ceilings on poultry and eggs.

DU MARS: So, the poultry and egg producer is going to know the range of prices he can expect -- both the ceiling and the floor.

TERMOHLEN: And he knows for all he can produce, there's a need.

VAN DEMAN: A need that can't be measured in billions of dozens or millions of pounds....it's a need for body-building and health-producing food for growing children, for war workers, for fighting men, for all of us who cherish freedom.

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